

Speech by Mr. HIGUCHI Yoshihiro,
Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Inauguration Ceremony of the Training Ward
at Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospital
in Kampong Cham Province
December 16th, 2013

- H.E. Mr. Te Kuy Seang, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health,
- H.E. Mrs. SY Vantha, Vice Governor of Kampong Cham Province,
- Dr. Kimsour Phirun, Director of Provincial Health Department,
- Dr. Meas Chea, Director of Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospital,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this inauguration ceremony of a new training ward here at the Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospital, with the high presence of the representatives of the Royal Government of Cambodia as well as those of Kampong Cham Province.

I am particularly glad that the ceremony takes place in the special context of this year 2013 which marks the 60th anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

The new training ward and accommodation facility provided by the Government of Japan will allow the hospital to effectively organize training courses for their staff and medical students within its own premises.

As I understand that the Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospital has been offering best quality services in the province, this new training ward is expected to be a center for medical training in the province, thus contributing to upgrading the overall level of medical services in the province.

The improvement of medical services, which contributes to all the citizens in Cambodia, is one of the proprieties for the Cambodian Government. The “Rectangular Strategy”, as set out by the Royal Government, includes “Promotion of Health and Nutrition” under the pillar of Capacity Building and Human Resource Development. As a specific measure, the strategy emphasizes an increasing access to health services through expansion of coverage and outreach, and also the enhancement of quality of medical care. It was in line with this strategy as well as Japan’s basic economic cooperation policy towards Cambodia that the Government of Japan decided to provide this cooperation project to the Kampong Cham Provincial Referral Hospital.

In fact, the Government of Japan has been continuously supporting the efforts of the Cambodian Government through the construction of medical facilities, the provision of medical equipment and the training of medical and technical staff not only Phnom Penh but also rural areas.

The importance of cooperation between two countries in the health sector has been reaffirmed on various occasions, including the latest one which took place at the highest level. On the occasion of his official visit to Cambodia on 16 November, PM of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe had a summit talk with PM of Cambodia, Mr. Hun Sen, where the two leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the health sector and concurrently, a framework agreement to this end was signed by both sides.

In this context, I strongly believe that the new training ward will lead to the expansion of health service delivery and consequently, the residents of Kampong Cham province will enjoy a better access to medical care.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the training ward will be maintained properly and utilized effectively as a symbol of friendly relations between the two countries and the projects will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you for your attention.